

APPENDIX C

LRMP AMENDMENT FACTORS OF SIGNIFICANCE OR NON-SIGNIFICANCE

The following factors are to be used when determining whether a proposed change to a forest plan is significant or not significant, based on NFMA planning requirements.

Timing.

Timing identifies when the change is to take place. The life of a Forest Plan is 10-15 years. The current Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG) Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was signed and began implementation July 31, 2002. The proposed management actions that are not currently described in the LRMP (i.e. rodenticide use) will be discussed in the Record of Decision for black-tailed prairie dog management on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. Strategy implementation would likely begin in the summer of 2010 and/or early 2011 and continue for the remainder of the Forest Plan period.

Location and Size.

Location and size defines the relationship of the affected area to the overall planning area. The NFS land planning area for the Thunder Basin National Grassland is approximately 547,802 acres. The primary proposed management action in relation to the proposed changes to the LRMP involves the adjustment of MA 3.63 (Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat) and implementation of the strategy across the TBNG.

Goals, Objectives, and Outputs.

The LRMP applicable goals, objectives, and outputs are reviewed to determine whether the proposed LRMP amendment alters the long-term relationships between the levels of goods and services projected by the LRMP. Changes in the LRMP are in Appendix C

Management Prescription.

The management prescription is reviewed to determine if the change is for a specific situation and whether or not the change alters the desired condition of the land and resources or the anticipated goods and services to be produced.

The change of acres of the Broken Hills and Cellars Rosecrans Geographic Areas from Management Area 3.65 and 5.12 Prescription Allocation, respectfully, to Management Area 3.63 Prescription Allocation is specific in nature (see Appendix C). This change in land use allocation does not change the goods or services that otherwise would be produced. Black-footed ferrets have not occupied this area. This re-allocation will not threaten the black-footed ferret population thresholds and recovery efforts, nor will it alter the current livestock grazing activities and outputs.